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LEUPP RELOCATION CENTER
LEUPP, ARIZONA

August 21, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Paul G. Robertson
Project Director

SUBJECT: Arrest and Release Procedure of Isolation Center Residents
at Leupp.

At this writing, Leupp's population is made up mainly of former residents of Tule Lake, Manzanar, Gila, and Topaz.

In investigating, reviewing, and studying these cases, one fact, and only one, becomes predominantly clear. That is the necessity of clear-cut understanding and regulations regarding the transfer of evacuees to Leupp and their subsequent release.

At present we have some evacuees who could be classified as criminals; others who are definitely pro-Japanese; and a few who are, apparently, pro-American. The criminals resent being classified with the pro-Japanese and, conversely, the pro-Japanese resent being classed as criminals. The lot of the pro-American element is, perhaps, the most hazardous since they are in a minority. This condition, however, has not as yet become critical, but if Leupp's population grows and the practice of throwing these opposing groups together continues, trouble is likely to ensue. If the policy for the treatment of criminals is to isolate them into this center rather than prosecuting them in the state, federal, or other courts, a classification system will eventually become necessary wherein these groups will be separated.

At this writing, there exists no method of making the punishment fit the crime. A person who has been arrested on suspicion finds himself subjected to the same treatment as one who has been arrested for a definite act. For example, we have one boy who was apprehended by mistake. This fact was discovered immediately upon his arrival at the Isolation Center and the officials of the project from which he was removed were notified almost at once and eventually admitted the mistake but yet refused to allow him to return to their center. He is still with us and has been in the Isolation Center for over six months. In the meantime however, others against whom there were specific allegations have been released.

Many have been arrested and sent to the Isolation Center with the promise of a fair trial and have never received it; others had neither a trial nor a promise of one; still others had so-called trials in which they were not advised as to their legal rights nor were they allowed to defend themselves.

The practice of arresting or transferring evacuees based solely upon the recommendation or testimony of highly questionable informers has been followed in many cases. There is evidence to show that some of these persons were falsely accused and, as a result, falsely arrested and imprisoned. There is also evidence to indicate that the informers themselves should be investigated.

Some are here for refusing to register and yet there were several thousand who refused to register and were not apprehended.

Many are here for membership in an organization that was duly authorized by the center officials and no effort was made to cause the organization to disband. This organization not only is still functioning but the membership has increased considerably since the arrest of these men.

Nearly ten were arrested on suspicion and, although over six months has elapsed since their arrest, no further evidence has been forthcoming to substantiate this suspicion.

All in all, the whole procedure is confusing and the need for clarification is obviously paramount.

In many cases a thorough investigation conducted on the project before the removal of a person to Leupp would have done much to alleviate this confusion. The promiscuous use of the emergency clause in Administrative Instruction No. 95 has undoubtedly added materially to this chaotic condition.

From the standpoint of discipline and rehabilitation it is hoped that we can expect whole-hearted cooperation from the other projects in receiving those evacuees whose release is recommended. If they are received and treated as ex-convicts we may well expect some recidivism and the program of rehabilitation but the real test is after their release.

Naturally being a comparatively new center, Leupp is still having "growing pains" as described above but consideration of our brief past and present, with an eye to the future (especially with Segregation and its potentialities), the need for clarification and standardization of arrest and release procedures is worthy of immediate consideration.

/s/ F. S. Frederick
Chief of Internal Security

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Leupp, Arizona
December 27, 1943

Dear Frank:

Your letter of December 21st arrived Christmas Eve and I was pleased to learn that your furlough was sufficiently long to enable you to be with Jane during the blessed event. We were both pleased to hear that Jane and the baby are getting along nicely. We hope that you had a merry Christmas and both wish to thank you for your greetings.

The trip to Tule Lake was a very interesting one. I sincerely regret that you were not able to accompany us and remain to assist in the rehabilitation of Tule Lake. Our train was five hours late into Stockton so we missed connections and were scheduled to leave Stockton next morning at 7:30 A.M. The train was so over loaded when it arrived that they refused to hook our cars on so we remained there until 7:45 that evening. The fellows were so anxious to have some Chinese food that Groves, Allen and I went down in town and ordered \$65.00 worth of food. They were so grateful. I also permitted them to detrain at Stockton, under guard, for about two hours and stretch their legs. We left Winslow Friday Dec. 3rd at 7:00 P.M. and arrived in Klamath Falls at 11:30 A.M. Monday December 6th. Best met the train at Klamath and I drove with him down to the camp in order that we might discuss the status of the boys before they arrived at the camp. When the special cars finally arrived about 4:30 we had reduced the number for the stockade to ten. This was agreed to by Captain Archer who was in charge of the intelligence division of the Military Guard. After the boys had detrained and the baggage car was opened, Colonel Meek spied the dogs. He let out a string of oaths and wanted to know why anyone would allow those mangy, lousy old Navajo dogs to be brought to Tule Lake that they could not be kept in the stockade. I told him they did not belong to any of the fellow who were destined for the stockade, whereupon he informed me that all 52 were going into the stockade and he did not care to discuss the matter further.

Since they are in complete control, there was nothing that I could say or do. All 52 of the boys went into the stockade. During the next two days after long discussions and arguments the Colonel asked what I thought of Joe Kurihara. I told him that Joe was completely rehabilitated and would cause no trouble at Tule. He said he couldn't believe it and would call Joe over to the office for an interview. He called Joe over and Joe told him what he had often told us, that he had learned his lesson and was not interested in getting mixed up in community politics. The Colonel asked him what made him feel so very different than he had when the Colonel had previously talked with him. He said "Colonel Meek, if you could only have seen the treatment that I and all of the other boys received from the Administrators at Leupp Relocation Center, you could well understand why my feelings have changed and why I now have a great deal more respect for WRA than I previously had had." The Colonel then agreed to release all but the ten mentioned when they first arrived. Edward Ige, Tsuneto Yamate and Rev. Tsuha were detained because they were from Jerome and the feeling was very strong that the

Jerome group were the cause of the trouble at Tule. Hisato Kitadani, Yoshiichi Shibanaoka, Ichigi Kimura, Mitsuo Kaida and Tsutomu Higashi because they were the Manzanar dead end group who might be easily led in case of further trouble. George Takaoka and Shigharu Kinoshita because they were the only two from Topaz who said that they were well aware of what they were doing when they previously made the statement that they would commit an act of sabotage and that the feeling was still as before. These two however, they agreed to release after interview by FBI agents who were there making investigations.

The next day after the 42 were released, I discovered that Higashi had been released by mistake and that Harada, the young shiek, had been detained in his place. Before they had a chance to pick up Higashi, he came to the office and asked to be placed back in the stockade unless the Manzanar friends were released. He was promptly placed back in the stockade, but up to the time of my departure they had not released Harada. The day I left, I had a long talk with Ige Tshua. Ige said the boys in the stockade felt like I had betrayed them and they had lost confidence. I assured him that the Army was responsible for them being there and that I had recommended release of the entire group but he would not believe me.

Apparently things are in very bad shape at Tule. After the incident on Monday when the group surrounded the Administration Building, Myer left thinking everything would straighten itself out. On Friday night the group came to Mr. Bests home after first going to a warehouse to find if food was being trucked out at night. Not discovering any trucks they went to ask the man who knew -- Mr. Best. When they approached the house they were overheard to say "Get Best." The army was then called in and several beatings occurred. The next day the entire committee who had called at the office on Monday, were placed in the stockade. After this committee was apprehended, the entire community refused to work until they were released. They finally decided to carry on the most essential work (most essential to themselves) such as mess-hall operations and coal crew. Also garbage disposal. Everyone else remains idle and things are at a standstill. The army waiting for the evacuees to give in and the evacuees waiting for the army to give in. I really believe a large number of the evacuees want to return to work but there is a strong arm group that is threatening them if they should return.

I am certain that work will not be resumed until confidence in the administration is restored. The leaders who are now in the stockade claim to have a petition signed by everyone in the community requesting the discharge of all employees who were acting at Tule Lake prior to November 4th. The petition has been presented but no one has seen any signatures. The feeling is very high. I talked with a number of our boys after they were released and they were hesitant about talking. They said they were glad to be back home but things were awfully bad out in the camp. None of the boys could or would go back to work at the present time.

At the present time I am Acting Assistant Director at Tule Lake in charge of Community Management. That of course means I am in charge

of every activity in the evacuee community, Health, Education, Recreation, Internal Security, Welfare, Housing etc.

I returned to Leupp on the 18th to close up and take my family back to Tule Lake. Upon my arrival here I find that the Immigration Division is seriously considering using Leupp as a War Prisoner Camp. We are therefore delayed in the closing of Leupp until they have made a decision. If they decide to use Leupp they want as many of the guards and power house labor as will stay.

Tuesday before I left Tule Banderob came down with the Flu. I left there on Thursday night and when I arrived at Leupp received a telegram saying that Banderob had passed away on Saturday morning. Guess it developed into pneumonia. (sic) It was quite a shock as he seemed so well on the preceding Monday.

Must close now and get back to work. I have tried to give you a little of the news. Oh yes, just after you left I received a telegram from Washington saying that our request for deferment for you came too late for them to take any action.

I sincerely trust that you are able to make an early adjustment to the army life and that you and your family enjoy a happy new year. Write when you can find the time. I certainly regret that you are not free to help me with the Internal Security problem at Tule.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul

Paul G. Robertson

P.S. Yesterday morning we awoke to find Leupp blanketed in four inches of snow. The trees were sagging under the heavy burden and all the wires were completely covered. It was really beautiful.